

Application Number 10/693,235  
Amendment dated December 29, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of October 22, 2004

REMARKS

The Applicants note that the Office Action Summary does not indicate whether the drawings filed in the application are acceptable. Confirmation of their acceptability is respectfully requested.


Claims 1-3 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ingino, Jr. (U.S. Patent number 6,441,660). Claims 5-7 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ross (U.S. Patent number 6,466,070) in view of Ingino, Jr. In view of the amendments to the claims and the following remarks, the rejections are respectfully traversed, and reconsideration of the rejections is requested.

Claims 4, 8, 10 and 12 are indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claims 1, 5, 9 and 11 are amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 4, 8, 10 and 12, respectively, and claims 4, 8, 10 and 12 are canceled. As a result of the amendments, all of the claims now incorporate allowable subject matter. Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejections of claims 1-3 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ingino, Jr. and of claims 5-7 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ross in view of Ingino, Jr. is respectfully requested.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that all claims pending in the application are in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully solicited. If a telephone conference will expedite prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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